

VZCZCXRO2950
OO RUEHBI
DE RUEHLM #0035/01 0091217
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 091217Z JAN 07
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5081
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0102
RUEHK/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 9753
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 6691
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 4757
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3426
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0441
RUEHN/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 3518
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY 0016
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 0505
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2598
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 7255
RUEHB/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 5019
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1666
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 000035

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/09/2017

TAGS: PTER PGOV MOPS PREL CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKAN MONITORING MISSION ADAPTING TO RESUMED
ARMED CONFLICT

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ZFR ZFR ZFR ZFR ZFR

TELEGRAM CANCELLED PER DRAFTER. WILL BE RETRANSMITTED WITH
NEW NUMBERS.

ZFR ZFR ZFR ZFR ZFR

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¶6. (SBU) The SLMM reacted both to recent Sri Lankan Air Force strikes against LTTE targets and to the recent spate of bus bombings by sending investigators and posting the findings on the SLMM website. The SLMM issued press statements deplored the targeting of civilians and urging both parties to observe their obligations under the CFA to spare the civilian population. However, it refrained from assigning blame to the LTTE as the likely perpetrator of the bus bombings, presumably for lack of clear proof.

¶7. (C) COMMENT: The SLMM continues to play an indispensable role in sorting out fact from fiction on the ground. There is no other authority we trust for impartial assessments of the realities regarding the numerous acts of violence. It has recently distanced itself from its previous approach of "ruling" against one of the warring parties. It is now investigating incidents that are not part of a more-or-less conventional armed conflict, but include acts of terrorism. Perhaps this is what Solvberg meant by becoming more "relevant." It is hard to see how the mission will be able to operate effectively without having a forward base of operations closer to the main theaters of hostilities in the

north and east. Still, the strategy of avoiding a static presence that could present a clear target is probably a wise one. Embassy will follow up on the SLMM's request for closer cooperation, especially any requests for U.S. assistance.

BLAKE